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*Numismatic
Association of
Southern
California*



THE N.A.S.C.
QUARTERLY

FALL 1987

*Purveyors of
the finest shows
in the west . . . where
dealers are treated
like royalty!*



12th Semi-Annual Coin, Stamp, Jewelry and Baseball Card Expo
October 30 & 31 & November 1, 1987
Marin Civic Center
San Rafael, California



16th Semi-Annual Coin and Stamp Expo
November 7 & 8, 1987
Retail Clerks Auditorium
Buena Park, California



6th Annual Coin and Stamp Expo
November 14 & 15, 1987
Red Lion Inn
Medford, Oregon

San Jose

Coin, Stamp and Baseball Card Expo
November 21 & 22, 1987
San Jose Convention Center
San Jose, California

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THE N.A.S.C. QUARTERLY

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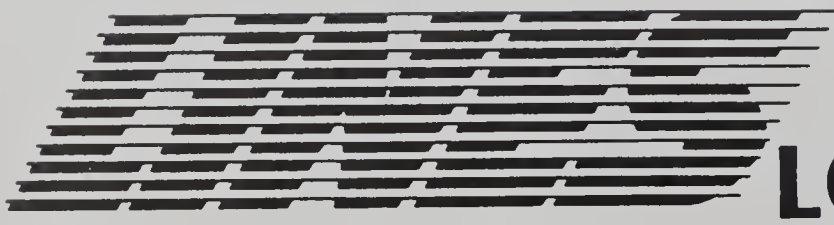
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FROM LORNA. . .

One of our past presidents, Murray Singer, was kind enough to send this message to me. I thank him and the President of GENA, Ed Quagliana, for this timely piece.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I write this there is a bright and encouraging upbeat attitude toward coin collecting and coin investing. With the price of gold and silver bullion rising, there seems to be an infection of optimism that says the collector is back and that's good.

With mixed feelings I observe the inroads of strictly commercial coin shows of giant proportions into more and more regional areas where state and area coin associations have held forth for decades. These shows are promoting numismatics by presenting the huge inventories of several hundred dealers to the collector. They are hurting numismatics by holding their event on dates in conflict with the long established regional coin associations. These groups will hit and run. After the show is over there will be no educational influence in area clubs . . . no journals, no speakers, programs, no awards programs, and no young numismatist encouragement. With this in mind let's work hard to make this GENA convention a memorable event.

That last line could just as well read, " . . . this NASC convention . . ." As I re-read Mr. Quagliana's thoughts, I remember the long discussions your officers and board members have had over the years on this very important topic. Of course it cannot be used as a blanket statement to cover all commercial shows. I know of one in particular which is very large, which also offers several speakers and special programs for juniors. I also know of several smaller clubs whose shows have been bumped out of their traditional spots on the calendar. This has been a tragedy. Now there is no club activity which involves everyone, and too many times the cohesiveness disappears and another club disbands.

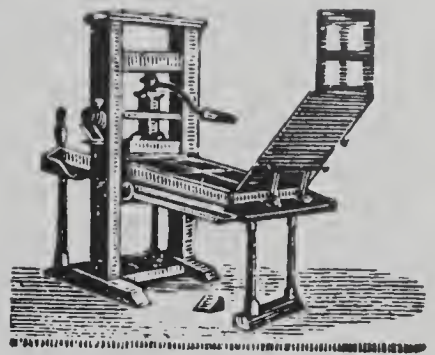
NASC will once again sponsor an ANACS Grading Workshop at Cal Poly, Pomona on November 21 & 22, 1987. Pre-registration is required. Please send your requests for information to Harold Katzman, 1504 W. Rosewood court, Ontario, CA 91762.

Bowers and Merena will hold a multi-session auction during the show. They will begin showing lots on Monday preceding the show, January 25, 1988. This premier auction house has been an active supporter of NASC for a number of years, and we thank them for it. If you are not already on their mailing list for a catalogue, please write them at Box 1224, Wolfeboro, NH 03894. Be sure to mention the dates of the sale.

I wish you all a happy fall and holiday season. For those of you in the lands of changing colors of the leaves, I wish to be there to take it all in. It is so beautiful. Perhaps another time.

Lorna Lebold
President

Editor's Note:



Literary Awards, Contributors & News

Every year during the annual banquet, the Numismatic Association of Southern California grants several awards for original articles published in our magazine during the previous year. Three of these (1st, 2nd, 3rd) are named in honor of the late Karl M. Brainard, having been given annually since 1965. Another award, the Junior Literary Award (JLA), is given for the best original article by a junior. For the transcendent original article on ancient, Greek, Roman, or Byzantine coins by a member of NASC, we present the George Bennett Memorial Literary Award. Why have awards one could ask? Basically, to encourage numismatic research, writing, education and as an enticement for articles, etc.

In 1982 your Editor introduced *The N.A.S.C. Quarterly* contributor plaque, a non-competitive presentation (not always a plaque) to be given to eligible contributors of one or more original literary efforts printed in our publication. Lately, we have given encased copper specimens of the current convention medal (actually a medallion) to our writers. It is one way to acknowledge a person for their

endeavor. These scarce copper specimens have a mintage of ten to fifteen pieces each year.

Now for the news! At the American Numismatic Association (ANA) Convention in Atlanta this past August, our Club Reporter, Dr. Thomas Fitzgerald, accepted a 2nd place publication award for the *Quarterly*, as the best regional publication. Last year our magazine garnered first place at the ANA Convention in Milwaukee.

The news continues without interruption. Our Club Reporter also accepted a **FIRST PLACE AWARD** from the **NUMISMATIC LITERARY GUILD (NLG)**, for *The N.A.S.C. Quarterly* as the best publication from an organization of more than 100 members.

No more news. Now for the credits! We thank the ANA and the NLG for the honorable awards for our magazine. We also show gratitude to Dr. Thomas Fitzgerald for "doing the honors" . . . again!

Gary Beedon, NLG
Editor

Some Thoughts on Coin Collecting

continued:

Q. David Bowers

Fun With Coins

Once you own a coin, take time to *enjoy* it. I mean this seriously. Too often someone will hunger after a coin—whether it be a 1939-D Uncirculated Jefferson nickel or an 1879 \$4 Stella, and then, upon acquiring it, scarcely takes time to appreciate what he has. Take out a magnifying glass, hold the coin carefully, and study all the design details. A coin does not have to be rare or expensive to provide fascination. I bet that a nice Extremely Fine Capped Bust half dollar, a piece worth in the \$100 range, can provide at least five to ten minutes worth of study, for example. Take a coin—any coin (but it helps if it is older, for older pieces have more interesting characteristics)—and study it under magnification. If the piece is dated prior to about 1836, chances are good that it will have many fascinating idiosyncracies. Look at the numerals of the date. Some are probably spaced differently than others with respect to the surrounding digits. Look at the letters in the legend. Some may be recut, if only minutely. Where is the initial of the engraver (not found on very early pieces, but a feature of coins from the mid-nineteenth century onward)? Once you found it, what do you know about him? How long did he work at the mint? What are some of the other coins he designed? Are there any diebreaks on the coin? If so, what route do they

take across the surface of the piece you are examining?

Why was the coin issued? How many were minted? How rare is the issue in different states of preservation? If it is worn, is this unusual? What areas of the design show the most wear? What was the use of such a coin in the everyday commerce—can you relate it to history, banking, or some other aspect? In what metal was the coin struck? How pure is the metal, or what is the alloy? Consider the date and denomination of the coin, then refer to a reference book to find out what other denominations were made the same year—and how many were made of each, and of what metals were they struck, and who designed them, and what uses did *they* have in the channels of commerce?

Is the edge of the coin plain? If so, study it carefully for marks. Are there vertical streaks (from ejection from a collar), or was it struck without a collar (such as was the case with early copper coins). Is the edge lettered? If so, what is the design? What about the rim? Is it narrow or wide? Is it the same width in all areas, or does it vary? How does the obverse rim compare to the reverse rim? What about the treatment right inside the rim? Are there denticles (tiny toothed projections)? If so, are the denticles evenly-spaced or are they irregular? Or are there beads? Or, perhaps, the field curves directly up to the rim without any ornamentation. What is

the style of the letter? Are they fancy (with serifs) or are they plain? What about the central design? Are the features sharp in all areas? (On early coins they usually are not.) What else can you notice?

Just as a tennis player endeavors to develop a "personal relationship" with the ball, the numismatist would do well to develop a personal relationship with the coins he owns. Coins are attractive, they have personalities, and they are willing to more than repay any interest paid to them. Don't ignore your coins, study them carefully; *appreciate* them. Of course, in the process you are gaining knowledge—and, knowledge is everything.

Investing in Books

"Investing" in some reference books is a good idea. In recent issues of the *Rare Coin Review* we have been pushing this aspect, not without some gain for us (for we make a profit on the books sold) but more important, because I have always felt that the best client is a well-informed client. This philosophy is not universally shared, and some dealers feel that it is "dangerous" to encourage collectors to learn too much—after all, they might discover that there are other coin dealers in the universe! We have no such fears here. In fact, we encourage you to shop around when it comes to coin buying, feeling that we offer a good value for the price paid and that our coins, upon close scrutiny of condition and price paid, can stand any comparison. Anyway, reference books are the best single source of knowledge you can have. While I like to think that the books I have written are dandy when it comes to numis-

matic knowledge, at the moment I will talk about some of the other books we offer as well.

David Akers, a well-known professional numismatist, spent a long time studying the auction appearances of gold coins from dollars through double eagles. He then created a series of books featuring a full page (or more) devoted to each and every coin variety within a given denomination. Thus, his book on \$5 pieces has one page for the 1900 \$5, a separate page for the 1900-S, still another page for the 1901, and so on. While looking at pictures of coins is not a substitute for owning them, still a good amount of vicarious pleasure can be derived from seeing the clear pictures of each and every date and mintmark variety—and reading about how scarce a particular variety is in a given grade, how many times it has appeared at auction, and so on.

Large cents form a particular area of fascination within American numismatics. If you told me you had to spend a week on a desert island and asked me to recommend some books to read, high on the list would be *Penny Whimsy*, by Dr. William H. Sheldon. While the text deals with large cents of the 1793-1814 years, the philosophies, humor (yes, humor), advice, and the like can be translated to many other areas. Here is a book for the ages. *Monographs on Varieties of U.S. Large Cents 1793-1804*, edited by my friend John W. Adams, certainly one of the finest numismatists I have ever met, gives collected articles on many different dates and varieties. As it is in anthology, the appeal of a given article and the way it is written varies, but still there is a gold mine of information to be absorbed. In our

book listing in the current issue there are other books on cents which are likewise worth having. Companion to the Sheldon volume is *United States Copper Cents 1816-1857*, by Howard R. Newcomb. While this book is essential for the identification of die varieties, unfortunately it lacks the *spirit* of Dr. Sheldon's writing, a loss for those who specialize in the later-date issues. Perhaps in some future year a latter-day Sheldon will emerge and write comprehensively on this important date span.

California Pioneer Fractional Gold is the title of a relatively new (autumn 1983) book by Walter Breen and Ronald J. Gillio. The availability a couple years ago of the Kenneth W. Lee reference collection of California gold pieces dated from 1852 through the late nineteenth century made it possible to study the varieties very carefully. While Lee and others had written on the subject earlier, no previous reference matches the Breen-Gillio effort. Such coins are fascinating, were made under crude circumstances from "primitive" dies, and certainly are worth reading about (it not indeed owning a few!).

On the previously-mentioned desert island you would be comfortable with a few other books as well. *The Early Coins of America*, by Sylvester S. Crosby, was published in 1875. Today, in 1984, it is still the standard reference in its field! The Crosby reference is like a smorgasbord. There are some things you will want to savor at length, and there are some things that you will want to pass over quickly or ignore. There is literally something for everyone. There are enough fascinating stories and anecdotes to hold your atten-

tion in the 378 pages.

One of my regrets is that Don Taxay, who blessed the numismatic community with some truly wonderful books in the 1960s and early 1970s, has not been writing about coins lately. However, if he wrote nothing else, his *United States Mint and Coinage* volume would serve to memorialize him for all time. Here is a book that you *must* own—and, equally important, once you own it, you must read it!

If you would like to have a nice "picture book" combined with an authoritative and absorbing text, *The Work of Augustus Saint-Gaudens*, by John H. Dryfhout, will fill the bill exactly. We all know about the famous sculptor and his magnificent \$10 and \$20 pieces minted from 1907 through 1933, especially his MCMVII High Relief double eagle. But less well known, at least to numismatists, are the wonderful statues, plaques, busts, and other artistic efforts of this gentleman, who was a legend in his own time. This is a "pricey" book, as they say, and the \$60 cover price not to be sneezed at—but we have sold quite a few of these, and so far as I know, everyone has been pleased. One of our clients, a retired New York City coin dealer, liked it well enough that he ordered duplicate copies for his friends and relatives!

While this is a article and not a "book advertisement," in keeping with the educational theme of what I have to say, I cannot resist mentioning a few other books which I consider to be worthwhile. *United States Civil War Store Cards*, by George and Melvin Fuld, is an interesting introduction to tokens of the Civil War era. If you live in the

Northeast the chances are good that your own state or community issued such tokens, all of which are illustrated and identified in the text. Issuing such pieces tended to be erratic, however. For example, in the state of New Hampshire just one Civil War token was issued, by A.W. Gale in Concord. On the other hand, in the Ohio town of Cincinnati alone, hundreds of different varieties were produced!

Morgan & Peace Silver Dollars, by Van Allen and Mallis, lists more minute die varieties of Morgan dollars than you're apt to want to know about, but this is because the book is comprehensive. Again, like a smorgasbord you can sample what you like and ignore what you don't. The volume has some wonderful illustrations from the days in which the pieces were minted, much advice concerning striking and die preparation, and the like. All in all, it is difficult to envision seriously collecting Morgan dollars without possessing a copy of this text.

Silver and Gold Commemorative Coins 1892-1954, by Swiatek and Breen, is as close to being the last word on the subject as has been published to date. Again, there is enough information to satisfy the most fastidious researcher. Unfortunately (in my opinion), the "base motives" of various commemorative issuers are overplayed, perhaps to the detriment of romance of the entire situation (but, unquestionably, there were some scandalous things going on back then!). How the various issues were designed, distributed, and how rare they are today are among the topics discussed.

United States patterns, by Judd and Kosoff, is another one of my

favorite desert-island books! Indeed, here is a volume which is absolutely basic to the study of American coinage. One cannot comprehend or truly appreciate the regular series unless one knows the designs that were tried and then rejected or, in some instances, tried and then accepted. Some patterns were dazzlingly beautiful, and it strains the imagination today to realize that they were not adopted. All in all, the book provides a nice "tour" of American coinage from the earliest days onward.

Another Don Taxay book, *Counterfeit, Misstruck and Unofficial United States Coins*, is worth reading as an overall view of the shenanigans that once went on at the Mint, how coins can be deceptively altered, and so on. Your education will be broader once you have finished the volume. A close friend, M.C., who received one of these as a present from his daughter, called me twice during the reading of the book to inform me of his progress and to say how much he enjoyed it! Perhaps this is as good of a testimonial as can be thought of.

Despite its beauty, large-paper money has been largely ignored by numismatists. The reasons for this are hard to figure out. One specialist mentioned to me when I saw him at a convention that he felt that one company in particular had been "pushing these to death" as an investment. While price increases are wonderful, and while every collector hopes that his pieces will eventually be sold for more than he paid for them, still investment is not the tail that wags the dog. Too much emphasis on investment can be a turn-off and can impede the serious

study and appreciation of notes. Be that as it may, large-size notes are overdue for recognition. While several other books are worthy, two of them, *The Comprehensive Catalogue of United States Paper Money*, by Gene Hessler, and *Paper Money of the United States*, by Robert Friedberg, constitute a "library" on the series. Buy these two books, read them, and you will be right up there with the experts if you have any degree of retention.

Periodicals

Keeping up to date by reading periodicals is a good idea, too. *Coin World* dominates the field with a circulation of nearly 100,000 copies each week, followed by *Numismatic News*. *The Numismatist*, official journal of the American Numismatic Association, comes out monthly. *Coins Magazine* and *CoinAge* are also monthly and are circulated by subscription as well as on newsstands. Subscriptions to one or all will enhance your awareness. Addresses of the publications can be found in the back pages of *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, which I presume you already own.

If you are inclined toward research, I recommend reading old-time newspapers, magazines, and other periodicals in search of references to coins. I recently bought a set of *Niles Register*, published in Baltimore during the early part of the last century, and look forward to skimming it (for there are tens of thousands of pages) for data on coins and how they circulated at the time. The *Niles Register* was an early-day equivalent of the *Wall Street Journal*. It provided reading on current financial and national mat-

ters. Undoubtedly, a close perusal of newspaper of the 1793-1796 era from virtually any town would unearth some reference to the initial appearance of United States coins issued by the Philadelphia Mint (beginning in 1793). The 1793 newspaper account printed for many years in *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, before space became a problem in that reference, noted that Miss Liberty on the Chain cent "appeared to be in a fright, and the chain device on the reverse is but an ill omen." Certainly there must be a dozen other contemporary articles which can be found! Similarly, how about digging through some Civil War era newspapers to find references concerning encased postage stamps, Civil War Tokens, the lack of circulating coinage and so on? In our catalogue of the George Hetrich Collection, which we sold at auction a few years ago, some of this sort of thing was reprinted in the introduction, for it was one of Dr. Hetrich's special interest areas.

John Jay Ford, Jr., the well-known numismatist, recently discussed with me the value of *Coin World*. So large is each issue, just about everything worth reading appears in print there one time or another. With some cutting and pasting you can build up a specialized scrapbook on just about any area of interest. Other numismatic publications contribute to the effort as well, of course.

Pleasure

Psychologists tell us that life is devoted to the seeking of pleasure. Often the pleasure, once obtained or purchased, proves elusive. There are many people who scrimped and saved for the "cruise of a lifetime,"

only to spend a good many days on board ship waiting for the next port or even for the return home. An acquaintance of mine paid \$40,000 for an automobile, feeling that, somehow, the ownership of such would make him continually happy—at least that's what the advertisements for it indicated. Once purchased it was driven for a day or two and then garaged. Now it is for sale. At a dinner with a staff member of the publication *Architectural Digest* I was told of a wealthy person whose sole ambition, apparently, was to have his home featured in that magazine's pages. "Tell me what decorator I should use and how should I decorate my home so that you will do a story about me," he told my friend. How sad, I thought.

Pleasures in numismatics need not be expensive. While I certainly enjoyed cataloguing the 1804 silver dollar which brought \$400,000 at my firm's sale of the Garrett Collection a few years ago, I can say that nearly as much pleasure can be derived by studying any other dollar, a "common" 1803, for example, and observing its die characteristic, designs, and other features. and, to get more to the point, I will bet you that \$500 spent on numismatic books will bring you more pleasure than one-tenth of a \$5,000 cruise—if you read the books.

Some of my favorite United States coins are not at all expensive. It would be difficult to find a more historic or romantic coin than the 1909 V.D.B. cent—indeed, an entire story or article could be written about this common and inexpensive piece. The 1883 Liberty nickel without CENTS is perhaps the most

fascinating coin in its series—well, not quite, the 1913 gives it a run for its money—and yet in Uncirculated condition it is cheapest of all Liberty nickels! The 1913 Type I buffalo nickel is likewise a piece which is at once fascinating and inexpensive. Having handled what must amount to many hundreds of thousands of silver dollars by now, I should be jaundiced, but still when I catalogue a relatively common issue, a Choice Uncirculated 1881-S for example, I have an appreciation for the rich historical background that these heavy and impressive coins bespeak. It is really marvelous that one of the greatest political boondoggles of all times, the Bland-Allison Act of 1878, later turned out to be a blessing for collectors, for many coins were saved in condition as minted. If this early-day stockpiling had not been accomplished, then the 1881-S silver dollar would not have been minted at all or, it would have been minted to a much lesser extent (as were dimes, quarters, and half dollars of the era). The cost today, rather than being less than \$200, would probably be \$10,000 or more! One of my favorite commemorative half dollars is the 1892 Columbian issue, a piece which is also among the cheaper and commoner issues. A few years ago I came across an old scrapbook which had many clippings extracted from newspapers when the coin was first made. These clippings, plus my own commentary, later were used to write a feature article for *The Numismatist*.

The California Gold Rush is incredibly romantic. If you read my Adventures With Rare Coins or The History of United States Coinage books, you will know that I devoted

quite a bit of space to the subject. While there are a number of privately-minted California gold coins of that era which today are major rarities and cost \$100,000 or more each, the flavor of one of the greatest chapters in American history can be sampled for a much lower price, by owning some 25¢, 50¢ or other small-denomination gold coins, worn examples of which are apt to sell in the \$100 range or even less.

While coins have been a wonderful investment medium in the past years, and while I wish you the very best concerning your own

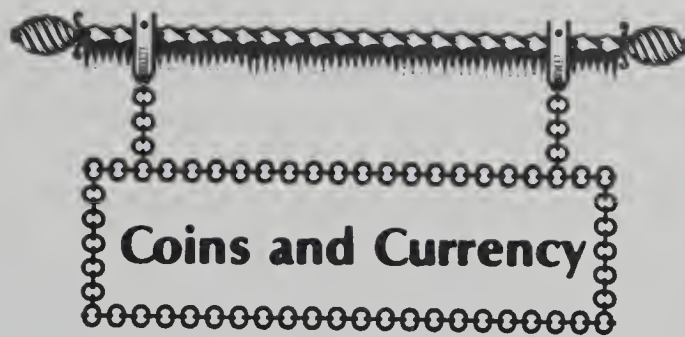
investment objectives in this regard (isn't it comforting that your favorite hobby can also have the potential of rewarding you financially in a manner that few other areas are able to match?), the bottom line, as I see it, is *enjoyment*. Let me conclude these random thoughts on coin collecting by urging you to study and appreciate the coins you already have, and as new pieces are acquired, take the time to get acquainted with them on a personal basis. The more you pay attention to a given coin, the greater your rewards will be. ☆

King of Siam United States Proof Set



FINEST KNOWN 1804 U. S. DOLLAR

On October 14, 1987 Bowers and Merena will offer the above King of Siam 1834 U. S. Proof Set at a reserve of \$2 million. Two of the coins, the 1804 Dollar and Ten Dollar gold piece, were struck in 1834!



Austin Ryer, Jr., NLG

Many thousands of years ago in Asia-Minor, people found that barter was not the easiest way to do business and began using blobs of electrum, crudely marked, as a medium of exchange. The reasons for this are no secret to the modern man. Cows and pigs do not equate and it is a little hard to make change with cows and pigs. When one has a cow and wants a pig it is much easier to sell the cow, and then buy the pig using coins or currency.

Coins made from copper, silver or gold have been in use for many centuries and were widely accepted even though the governments began playing with the values of these metals.

A couple of centuries ago the US government tried an experiment called paper money. The reason for this was the Revolutionary War; the government had run out of resources. They issued "Continental Currency". I am sure that you have all heard the phrase "not worth a continental". The first experiment with paper money was a disaster. The paper was worthless almost as soon as it was issued. It was fiat money (unbacked).

In the early 1860's the government again tried paper money. This time, however, they required that the paper money be backed by silver or gold, and that the backing be available upon demand. In the 1930's the gold backing was removed, and in the 1960's the silver backing was removed. We became a nation of fiat money again.

Fiat money had been tried several times before by several different countries. Most notable of these countries was France, who had tried this experiment several times in its history. The end result was always the same, disaster. Financial ruination for the country and all its people.

If disaster is the end result of fiat money, why did the US go to it? There are many reasons given. Some of them even seem to make sense. A few of them were . . . Not enough silver and gold in the world to back world currency . . . We are a sophisticated society and understand world finances and we do not need backing for our currency . . . US money is backed by the government (we all trust the government to do what is best for us don't we?), etc.

Now the government is slowly leading us one step further in to the ultimate of fiat currency and that is no currency at all! How will that work? I am not quite sure but the way that I see it working out is that every man, woman and child will be issued an identity card. This will act as a charge card and probably will allow you to buy things on time. You will never have to balance a checkbook again. Big

brother will do all that for you. When you receive payments credits will be added to your account automatically by a giant computer. When you buy things debits will be subtracted automatically in the same manner. You will not have to worry about income tax again as the computer will have all that information and automatically calculate the tax and subtract the proper amount from your account. The government will have a complete record of just about everything you do. When you go on vacation they will be able to track your movements exactly. They will know where you bought gas, ate lunch and where you slept each night. There will be no privacy for any of us. Big brother will have gained full control of our lives.

Big brother says that only good things will come for this control. Drug dealers will not be able to function; the mob will also be put out of business. If you believe this I have a bridge for sale. What one man can devise another will find a way around. The only way that this system has a chance to function would be for the government to confiscate all items that have intrinsic value such as gold and silver. What will happen to wedding rings, diamonds, etc. is anyone's guess. If these items are not confiscated then there will still be a way to get around the credit card system. We can all go back to the barter system and we may be forced to do just that to survive. The present idea of many of the politicians is to even out all the monies of the world among all the peoples of the world and that will leave us all equal and all destitute. We all know that big brother knows best so why do we worry?

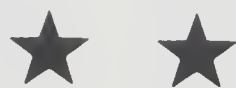
I am sure that some of you are saying that this can never happen. The American people will not stand for it. All you have to do is to go to the grocery store to see the beginnings of all this now. The computer totals your purchases automatically. You slip your credit card into a slot and your account is reduced by that amount immediately. Big brother now knows what you eat and how much. Soon he will know everything that you do.

Coin collectors will be a thing of the past. Not only will there be no new coins to collect, the government will have to confiscate all the ones that you now possess. He can't do that you say. Do not wager any credits on that. If the coins are not confiscated then there will be a means to avoid the credit card system when one wants to hide a transaction and big brother will not allow that.

I still find it hard to believe that this system will work unless government control becomes so tight that bartering will be prohibited. Surely the mob will continue to operate and the only people hurt by this system are the honest people who never did try to avoid taxes or do anything dishonest. They will have to pay the price for more government intervention. It has been my experience that every time the government takes over anything it costs much more than it ever did while it was under the free enterprise system.

I have no solutions for the dilemma facing the younger generation. Government has gotten so big and powerful that the little guy is just lost. About 50% of the people in this country work for the government either directly or indirectly. Any reduction of government will hurt these people and they will not support any changes until it is too late. At this point in time I am not sure if we are heading into a dictatorial or a communist type of government but we are sure heading away from a democracy at an enormous rate of speed. Oh well, BIG BROTHER KNOWS BEST. The term "numismatist" will soon be archaic.

SERIOUS COLLECTING



the Lincoln Cent

Sol Taylor



Back in 1909 the Lincoln cent emerged as the most popular new issue coin since the Columbian Exposition commemorative of 1892. Lines of buyers gathered outside banks on August 2, 1909 just to buy a few of the Lincoln cents. In many newspaper accounts of that day and following days, the excitement of the new issue was in the headlines. The entire 1909 VDB issue for instance was distributed in less than ten days! Naturally, so many have been hoarded for many decades, that original uncirculated rolls are even known to this date. At a mintage of 26 million, the 1909 VDB is surely not scarce, but it is today still quite popular. Overlooked in that frenzy of buying was the most interesting doubled die 1909 VDB in which the LIBERTY and date show clear evidence of doubling. No reference was known of this error until the mid-

1950s and no great interest was shown in buying this coin until very recent years. From the very beginning, the Lincoln cent has offered a serious and rewarding challenge for the serious collector.

In the fall of 1909 on the west coast, which was separated in many ways from the east coast, the 1909S VDB cent was sold out in one or two days of hectic activity — the entire mintage of some 484,000 pieces absorbed into collectors' hands in a few days. Here again, though not very rare, this "key" issue has been the keystone of most every starting collector's album. Until recently, a few mint rolls were known in private hands. In 1964 I visited Bob Johnson's shop in San Francisco, and he showed me TWO uncirculated rolls of 1909S VDB cents! Several other rolls were also known at that time in dealer's and collector's hands.

Finally, 1909 was also to provide the scarcest of all Lincoln cents, the 1909 VDB matte proof. This coin was issued on order for collectors who prepaid (sixteen cents each) and preordered some time early in the year — perhaps as early as March or April. The response was so small that only 480 specimens were struck, and most were mailed to customers who had prepaid for them. The “regular” proof coin buyers had probably ordered their regular brilliant proof Indian Head cents earlier, and probably felt that an extra proof cent of 1909 was superfluous. Some 2100 proof Indian Head cents were minted and sold. To complicate the matter, after only one day’s mintage of the 1909 VDB matte proofs, the Mint was ordered to remove the VDB. The balance of the matte proofs (a total of 2,198 pieces) was struck later in August for distribution to the “regular” proof coin subscribers. Today, the two 1909 matte proof cents are quite scarce to rare. Recent sales records of over \$1,000 and up to \$2,000 are known for the 1909 VDB matte proof.

Most Lincoln cent collectors were not around in 1909 to start their hobby. Many such as myself began in the 1930s with the issuance of “penny boards”. Several manufacturers including Western Publishing Company and Dansco issued large thick coin boards with punched holes for coins. Each hole had a date beneath the hole. Later they included mintage figures. Some boards had the mintage figures printed on the back of the board. Since the Lincoln cent was generally a coin for commerce, they circulated long after being minted. I personally found every single date in change including two each of 1909S VDB, 1914D,

1924D, and what I thought was a 1922 “plain” (actually was a weak “D”). I did have to buy the 1931S, since it was widely hoarded and saw very very little use outside the west coast. I lived in Brooklyn, NY.

I eventually had several boards going at once, each of a higher quality (i.e. grade). And each higher grade board revealed fewer and fewer coins. My 1914D, for example, was found in the sand at Coney Island. It was pitted and well worn, but both the date and mintmark were clearly visible. I sold it many years later to a dealer for kingly \$7.50.

It was not until after World War II that collectors even bothered with Lincoln cents, since they could almost all be found in change. But what was evident, few if any of the pre-1930 coins could be found in full mint red or even in well-struck very fine to extra fine condition. That was when dealers started to advertise to buy many dates by the roll. That way, in each roll a few higher grade coins might show up. For certain dates coins were mixed in carelessly. For example, I personally have bought many rolls of 1919S cents from about 1948 through at least 1970. In that span I have found several 1909S cents, one 1909S VDB cent, and dozens of extra fine to AU 1919S cents. Likewise, in the many rolls of 1921 cents I have bought, I have found at least one 1921S per roll. My rolls of 1922D however, never yielded a real 1922 “plain” cent.

Price lists starting in the 1950s began to show real premiums for many earlier Lincoln cents in mint condition. Sometimes one would see an ad, “1909S VDB Uncirculated \$7.50”, and “1909S VDB Bright uncirculated \$10.00”. It was recognized back in the 1950s that there

should be a premium for brighter BU coins than perhaps toned or darker BU coins.

By 1982 with so many coin series setting record prices (and many falling badly after the boom of 1979-80), the Lincoln cent began to emerge as a serious auction catalog item. I wrote the *Standard Guide to the Lincoln Cent* in 1982, and documented price swings from many sources from the late 1930s up to date. I also founded the Society of Lincoln Cent Collectors. The general tone of the SLCC is the search for the hidden BU early dates in the 1910-1919 era, and the well-struck pieces of the 1920s, along with the matte proofs of 1909-1916, and the very popular doubled dies of 1909 VDB, 1917, 1936, 1941, 1955, 1969S, 1972, 1983 DDR, and 1984. There

are many others as well. With the publication of the books on RPMs and OMMs (repunched mintmarks and over-mintmarks) a new surge of interest hit the Lincoln cent collector.

In addition the largest variety of errors is known in this series. Perhaps the most talked about are the 1943 cents on bronze planchets. There are of course, many dates known on silver dime planchets, foreign coin planchets, and many types of misstruck coins.

From all the evidence — such as Lincoln cent album sales — and the mail order business, the Lincoln cent is probably the most seriously collected coin series.

For information on SLCC, write to SLCC, P. O. Box 5465, North Hollywood, CA 91616. ☆

NU-MIS-TAKES

by FRANK WASK



ANA **Report**

Dr. Thomas F. Fitzgerald

Great News for NASC

Your Club Reporter went to Atlanta to participate in this year's ANA convention held in the huge Georgia World Congress Center. This immense facility was larger than many cities and the ANA convention utilized only a small portion of the center. You may remember the 1987 convention was originally scheduled for San Francisco.

Having attended the last five or six ANA conventions, one could not help but notice an evolution over the past couple of years. In Detroit, I attended several sessions put into the schedule for dealers to discuss ANACS with Ken Bressett, who at that time headed ANACS. There were angry words, threats and much dissatisfaction, particularly with the turn-around time in getting coins graded. There was also much discussion about grades (only 60, 63 and 65 were utilized for coins rated as uncirculated.) You may recall that Adna Wilde was called back to head the service for a short time.

At the Atlanta Convention, ANACS was not heard from (with the exception of opinions regarding the grading of foreign coins. Receiving all the attention at this show were activities to self-regulate coin dealers. One such effort, of course, would be the Professional Membership as offered by the ANA. Another program was proposed by ICTA who would require a background check for all who would be certified. I

attended their meeting and report that their members are deeply divided on the subject. Both the PNG, ICTA plus the Silver Dollar folks withheld their support of the Professional Membership Category by the ANA. When the new board (new president, vice president and 4 board members) held their first meeting (last day of the show), they voted to put the ANA professional membership on "hold" until they could determine the need or the desirability of such a membership category.

Congratulations to the NASC! Or, more accurately congratulations to Gary Beedon! This reporter was honored to accept for Gary Beedon and the NASC, a **FIRST PLACE AWARD** from the Numismatic Literary Guild (NLG) for our *Quarterly* as the best publication for an organization of more than 100 members. Two days later, I accepted a **SECOND PLACE AWARD** from the ANA as the best Regional Publication (2nd place). We are very fortunate to have Gary as our editor, and he deserves our thanks, support and congratulations. It was a proud convention for the NASC.

Congratulations go to our sister organization, the California State Numismatic Association. The M. Vernon Sheldon Audio-Visual Award was presented to the CSNA for their series of Video Programs to preserve their history and the history of numismatics in California. Both programs completed as of this date (Ralph Mitchell and Charles Kappen) are available from the NASC speakers bureau.

As he had done for several years, Carl Wolf organized and conducted the Numismatic Theatre. There had been some discussion concerning

the future of the Numismatic Theatre, and Carl wrote to supporters seeking donations. Because of the uncertain future of the theatre, events were not fully covered in the Krause program. Carl believes this accounted for the small audiences at the presentations. The programs were very interesting, although we were very dissappointed to learn that no one would speak for the mint — even though they had been advertised. Very active throughout the show, however, was Diane Wolf who has garnered so much press advocating changes in our coin designs.

There were two Farran Zerbe Awards presented at the Saturday banquet. First was the award to Virginia Culver which was presented posthumously and accepted by her son. The second Farran Zerbe medal went to new board member Ed

Rochette.
As mentioned earlier, a new board and officers took their places for their meeting on Sunday. One of the first surprises was President Steve Taylor announcing a new chief exhibit judge (although he had served six years previously in that capacity) Col. Robert Kreis from Florida. Previously, the board had raised the dues and although there was talk about other actions, nothing was forthcoming. There was much talk about next year's show scheduled for Cincinnati, Ohio. Tax problems have not been resolved, nor could the ANA Counsel give assurances that the problems would be resolved. Talk concerned contracts that have been signed and possible alternatives. No change was ordered by the new board, but the door was kept open. Your reporter predicts this will continue to be a problem. ☆

**WINERY SUED OVER
GRAPE GRADING BY LODI
GROWER**

... Field State Grapes?

Recently, a grape grower in Lodi, California filed a \$50 million lawsuit against E & J Gallo Winery because of backing out on a large grape purchase just prior to harvest time. A Gallo fieldman told the grower they did not want to take the grapes because Gallo was publicly criticized

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ about their grading practices by Davenport (the grower) according to the McClatchy News Service. The grapes in question were down graded in quality. Possibly, they did not make FS-60 or better (FS = Field State).

Maybe one of the popular grading services could have helped in the above situation. In the future we may see grapes graded FS-60, FS-65 or better, if growers listen to the grading advocates in numismatics.

COIN SHOWS

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| October 25, 1987 | 29th Annual Coin-O-Rama
West Valley Coin Club (WVCC)
Reseda Woman's Club
7901 Lindley Avenue
Reseda, CA |
| November 6-8, 1987 | 81st Convention and Coin Show
California State Numismatic Association (CSNA)
Red Lion Inn, Ontario Airport
Ontario, California |

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2. Increased benefits for local clubs
3. A bigger and Better NASC show each year
4. A strong drive to increase NASC membership
5. Increase numismatic educational benefits for all members



QUALIFICATIONS:

1. NASC is the only regional or national club THEY ACTIVELY SUPPORT.
2. They have actively served as Treasurer, Editor, Board member, Publicity, Awards, etc.
3. During the past eight years, they have each held two or more positions EACH YEAR.
4. They have devoted hundreds of hours to the service of NASC and will continue to do so.

• Paid for by the committee to elect Ryer and Beedon •

BI-ANNUAL ELECTION — Biographies

The following candidates or nominees have each submitted a short biography for publication in this issue as required. Election ballots will be in the mail after October 15, 1987.

Corky Ayers (President)

I was born on a farm near Amoret, Missouri in 1915. I was educated in the public schools of Missouri. I left the farm in 1932 and went to Iowa where I lived until 1933. When I left Iowa I headed for Oklahoma and the wheat harvest.

You could say by this time that I had a bad case of wanderlust. I headed for Chicago and the World's Fair. The Fair was all I had anticipated and more. I finally headed back to Missouri and Iowa where I stayed until 1935.

My next adventure was joining the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus. I travelled with them for a year and then to Florida winter quarters, where I left the circus and went my own way. I lived in Florida for a year and then went back to Iowa in December of 1936.

In Newton, Iowa I went to work in a restaurant as a cook. I met my wife, Awanda in this restaurant. We were married August 2, 1937. We lived in Newton for a year and moved to Charles City, Iowa in 1938, and lived there until coming to California in 1948.

I went to work at McDonnell Douglas, Long Beach in 1951 as a plumber, retiring in 1980 after almost 30 years.

I started collecting coins in 1937, but had to put it aside for a while. I got active again in the 50's.

I have served as president of Pomona Valley Coin Club, Upland Coin Club, Covina Coin Club, California Wooden Money Club, Downey Coin Club, Israel Numis-

matic Society of San Gabriel Valley and the Convention of International Numismatics.

I have been Bourse chairman for COIN, NASC as well as some of the coin clubs.

I have been Security Chairman at some of the organizations and club shows. I will be Security Chairman at CSNA in November.

I am the Vice President of NASC at this time and serving on the board of CSNA.

Austin Ryer, Jr. (President)

Austin Ryer, Jr. is a sustaining member of NASC. He is currently completing his 4th year as treasurer and his 5th year as Bourse chairman, and serves on other committees as needed. He has been chairman of Local Publicity, Editor of *The NASC Quarterly*, Security, etc.

Mr. Ryer worked at McDonnell Douglas as an engineer for over 29 years before his retirement in 1985. He is a part time coin dealer and has been since 1952. He is an ardent collector of coins and books. He is still active in all numismatic ventures.

Mr. Ryer belongs to several national clubs including ANS, EAC, John Reich Society, ANA, etc., but he is active in only one numismatic organization and that is NASC. He feels that the amount of effort to do a good job in one club precludes splitting his time between clubs. He devotes many hours a year in the service of NASC and has done so for the past ten years.

Charles Colver (Vice President)

Native of California, lifelong resident and past mayor of Covina, Graduate of Chaffey College, Ontario, California. Combat veteran of WWII, European theatre. Awarded purple heart, bronze star and combat infantry badge. A 42-year career with the U.S. Forest Service and still active there.

Numismatic activities: Collector since childhood, over 60 years. Specialist in U.S. Currency (National bank Notes). Appointed by The President to the U.S. Assay Commission in 1974. Exhibitor and Judge at numerous shows and conventions and MC at many banquets and forums. Struck #6 of the Olympic half dollar at the San Francisco Mint ceremonial striking. Leader of the committee to preserve and restore the Old San Francisco Mint. Candidate for ANA board of governors in 1985. Served as ANA Assistant Chief Judge for past 11 years and as District Rep. for several years, now chairman of the 1891 Club. Holder of a Heath Literary Award from the ANA and a member of the Numismatic Hall of Fame Committee.

First recipient of the Numismatic Ambassador Award from Krause Publications (1974), and now Executive Secretary for the program. Past President of COIN. Assistant Editor of *Calcoin News*, past president and 16-year secretary of CSNA., member of the Symposium Committee, holder of two literary awards and a medal of merit from CSNA. Sustaining member of NASC. Past president of the Covina Coin Club, San Bernardino Coin Club, Orange County Coin Club, and SIN. Founding president of Covina Valley Historical Society (1968), listed in both *Who's Who in California* and *Who's Who in the*

West. Western representative for Krause Publications, Iola, Wisconsin. "I love numismatics and am a true collector on every sense of the word."

Walt Ostromecki, Jr.

(Vice President)

Dr. Walt Ostromecki currently is serving out his second term as a member of the NASC board and is chairman of the Speakers Bureau and Visual Education Library. He has served as a club representative to the NASC, 1984 Banquet MC, assisted in the hospitality room and at the convention registration desk. He attended the first strike ceremony of the 1986 Silver Bullion coin in San Francisco on behalf of the NASC and President Lorna Lebold.

He holds life membership #18 in the West Valley Coin Club, where he began his coin collecting interests in the early 1960s. He has served as WVCC President in 1983, and various other capacities since 1975. Under his editorship since 1984, the WVCC Bulletin "The Coin" has received local and national award-winning status. He chaired the club's Coin-O-Rama's in 1983 and 1984 and served as General Chairman of the 79th annual CSNA show in Los Angeles hosted by the WVCC in October 1986.

Additionally, Walter is the President of the Society of Philatelists and Numismatists (1986-1988), and received their top service honor - "Man of the Year" for 1978. He is President of the Culver City Coin Club; Board Member CES and ABNS; Educational Forum Director for COIN 1987 and 1988; Corresponding Secretary/Editor WVCC. He is also a member of the ANA, CSNA (serving as Publicity Director from 1982-1985); NLG: Glendale Coin

Club, Verdugo Hills Coin Club; Los Angeles Coin Club; INSSG. He is past president of the Bay Cities Coin Club - 1985.

He has received recognition and honors from Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and the ANA and CSNA for his services and efforts as National Coin Week Committee Member, 1977-1983.

Walter is an active numismatic writer, exhibitor, and speaker, having given educational talks before numerous numismatic clubs, school groups and community service organizations nationwide.

His writings have netted him literary awards from the ANA (1981), CSNA (1981 and 1987), NASC (1981-1987) and NLG (1981 and 1985).

Ostromecki, a native Californian, holds a Ph.D. in Botany and teaches college extension courses locally, while working as a training instructor in Meeting and Presentation Skills, Group Dynamics and Conflict Resolution for the General Motors Corporation.

He seeks the NASC Vice Presidency on a platform of "Back to Basics" for our local hobby and convention events by promoting coin collecting as a leisure time hobby and source of education for all alike.

Gary Beedon (Vice President)

Gary Beedon, a native of California, is the Editor of the association's official publication *The N.A.S.C. Quarterly*, and has served in that capacity since early 1982. Prior to 1982 he was the Assistant Editor. He currently is an engineer at McDonnell Douglas at Long Beach (19 years).

After joining NASC in 1975 as a Club Representative, he helped on several committees, and was the Signs Chairman in 1980 and in 1981.

He has been a Board member since 1982. In 1985 Gary was the NASC Photographer in addition to Editor and Assistant Secretary. This year he is also Assistant Bourse, a job he held four times previously at NASC.

Other club/association memberships include the American Numismatic Association, Numismatic Literary Guild, John Reich Society, FVCC, CES, BHNC and two others. Primary efforts are directed to NASC.

Mr. Beedon's diversified experience in NASC makes him a truly exceptional candidate for Vice President. He has not only shown his ability to do a job, but his willingness to tackle the tough tasks.

Leonora Donald (Historian)

I became involved in numismatics through my mother, Grace Brainard and my step-father, Karl Brainard. The Los Angeles Coin Club was the first club I joined back in 1947. I am still a member of that club and hold Charter Member #22 in NASC and Sustaining Member #5. I became a joiner, and at one time was a member of 12 clubs. My first position was serving coffee. When it was discovered I could type, I graduated to secretary and editor of several clubs. I was elected President of Southern California Ancient Numismatic Society (SCANS) for two years, 1978 and 1979, and have been serving NASC as historian since first elected in 1977. I have cut down to being a member of four clubs, four regional organizations and the ANA.

I am not a collector *per se*, but I do exhibit (mostly one coin or medal), winning Best-in-Show at the NASC 1984 convention.

In 1987, Harold (my husband) and I jointly received the NASC Richard P. Goodson Award for Achievement in Numismatics. We

were surprised, thrilled and honored!

Stephen Albanese (Board)

Stephen Albanese first started developing an interest in numismatics at the age of 14 during 1962. In 1964 Steve joined his first numismatic organization and became member #39 in the Verdugo Hills Coin Club.

Some of Steve's views and actions as board member would be to work with the other board members and officers of NASC to promote strength in member clubs through educational speaker programs, workshops and whatever else we can do to increase education in numismatics. Steve will work to oppose all commercial shows with show schedules conflicting with club sponsored shows and conventions. Currently, Steve is a member of many coin clubs and organizations throughout the Southern California area.

Some of the offices currently held by Steve are board member of the Culver City Coin Club, Vice President of the Los Angeles Coin Club and Glendale Coin Club, President of the Verdugo Hills Coin Club and NASC representative for the Glendale Coin Club. Steve has also served as Security Chairman for CSNA convention and coin show.

In electing me to the board of directors, I would also hope that you would share your ideas and views in numismatics so that I can express them at the NASC board meetings.

William J. Grant (Board)

William J. "Bill" Grant, born in 1934 in Halifax, Canada. Left Canada in 1944 for Cortland, NY. Due to health reasons, family picked up stakes again and moved to Arizona in 1947. He completed Mesa High

School in 1954. Joined the Air Force following graduation and remained on active duty until his retirement in January 1978. Graduated from San Bernardino Valley College in 1981. Although not a college graduate, he has completed some 90 semesters of college work.

I got the collecting bug while stationed at Wheeler AFB, Hawaii. A collector since 1969, my primary interest lies with memorabilia items of Charles A. Lindbergh, Apollo XI, the Wright Brothers and local club medallions.

I have served as president of the Schofield-Wheeler Area Coin Club, Hawaii (1969-1970); Two terms as president Fontana Coin Club (1975-76 and 1977-78). Currently, I'm the President of San Bernardino County Coin Club; Bourse Coordinator for CSNA, and General Chairman for CSNA's 83rd convention in 1988. Club representative, California Exonumist Society (CES) to NASC. Served one year as Far East District representative for NASC.

I am a member of ANA (62311); Sustaining member of NASC; member of CSNA, SBCCC, FUN, TAMS, Upland and Redlands Coin Clubs. I have participated for the past three years in National Coin Week. Guest speaker at coin clubs; attended CSNA and NASC conventions for a number of years, and I have won numerous exhibiting awards.

If elected I hope to improve the image of NASC with greater recognition within the numismatic field. My high standards and personal reputation will bring a fresh viewpoint and new ideas.

Virginia M. Hall (Board)

I have been involved with numismatics since 1960. I enjoy making

displays for the pleasure of the viewing public and writing numismatic articles.

I have been President of the California Exonumist Society, as well as many local coin clubs in the Inland Empire. For the past several years I have been Co-exhibit Chairman for NASC along with my husband.

I have been Editor for the San Bernardino County Coin Club since 1974 and Editor for the California State Numismatic Association since 1975.

Kay Edgerton Lenker (Board)

Kay is a dedicated and hard working numismatist who strives to educate others to the joy of the hobby. She is an avid exhibitor, judge, and lecturer who gives freely of her time and talents. Now that she is fully retired, she has been expanding her quest for more information on the various topics that she collects and studies. She is known both as a worker and a leader, and has been made a Numismatic Ambassador by Krause Publications in recognition of her efforts.

Eric Millman (Board)

Hi! I am Eric Millman, and I am running for a seat on the Board of the Numismatic Association of Southern California. I have been a member of the NASC for nine years and a club representative many of those years. I have held committee jobs such as Signs, Sergeant at Arms and Junior Activities.

I am working and now running the Junior Table that goes to different shows for the juniors. I also do exhibits and give talks. If elected I will do my best to represent you at our board meetings. I hope you vote for me.

Kay Northam (Board)

I have been very active in numismatics since 1979. My past activities include President of Downey Numismatists, President of Bay Cities Coin Club, Vice President of Collectors of the Realm, 2nd VP of Los Angeles Coin Club, Secretary of American British Numismatic Society, Executive Director of INSLA, Treasurer of Culver City Coin Club, past President of the West Valley Coin Club and Awards Breakfast Chairman for WVCC Coin-O-Rama (1985). I have been the NASC Hospitality person for the past five years in addition to Registration Chairman.

I love collecting gold coins and other memorabilia.

Lynda B. Richard (Board)

I am a native Californian: Investment Broker/Financial Network Investment Corporation, Torrance, California

Serving as:

- ★ Secretary, Los Angeles Coin Club
- ★ Vice President, Downey Numismatists
- ★ Past President, Editor, Collectors of the Realm

Furthering my numismatic skills: working with the Walter Nukes Youth Program/United States History through Coins

Member of:

- ★ American Numismatic Association
- ★ Collectors of the Realm
- ★ Downey Numismatists
- ★ Los Angeles Coin Club
- ★ Numismatic Association of Southern California
- ★ Society for International Numismatists
- ★ Whittier Coin Club

Numismatic organizations are a very active part of my life. I hope to always find time to participate. ☆

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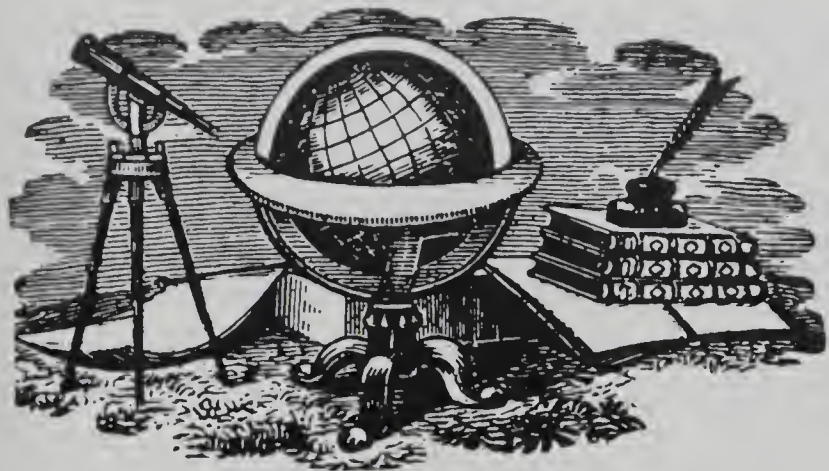
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Book Rate

by
**Austin Ryer, Jr.,
NLG**

What is a pile? — Read on.

I have always thought of myself as a numismatist. I guess that like all egoism, it was all in my head. I have been slowly working my way through two books distributed by the Humanities Press International, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716. The titles of the books are: *Ancient Coins of the Graeco-Roman World*, and *Anglo-Saxon Monetary History*. The titles are both misleading as they are both a compilation of papers delivered at a numismatic conference or a tribute to a numismatic scholar and the papers only cover specific topics, but they cover them in great detail and provide information not readily available elsewhere. They do not cover the full subject suggested by the titles.

I do not suggest these books for the casual numismatist. They should be reserved for the advanced student of the portion of numismatics suggested by the titles. Before you get the idea that these books are hard to read, let me say that all the papers are well written, and move along easily; but if you are not close to the subject, much of what is being said is unclear because you are not familiar with the references nor the subject matter. I spent a good deal of time going over reference books from my own library before I was able to follow many of the papers.

In both books you will read papers by some of the finest numismatists in Canada (*Ancient Coins . . .*) and in England (*Anglo-Saxon . . .*). One description of the people delivering papers is taken from *Ancient Coins of the Graeco-Roman World*. "This volume comprises a selection of papers given at a conference held at the 'Nickle' Museum of The University of Calgary, Alberta, by perhaps the most distinguished gathering of numismatists ever to assemble in North America." I have no reason to doubt that statement. Although, I think that many conferences held by the ANS have equally distinguished numismatists delivering papers.

If these subjects are of interest to you, I am sure that you will find many hours of fine reading. There are enough footnotes referencing other books and papers to keep you going for years. Some day, if you complete all the reading, we will be reading a paper presented by you to a very prestigious audience at a very high brow conference.

I will not attempt to assign a numerical grade to either of these books. I feel that these authors are so far advanced into their subjects that I have no right to criticize. Even if I tried, I could find very little wrong.

Since I am covering the books by the elite of the numismatic world, I

might as well cover another. We talked about greats from England and Canada above, so let's add an American to the list. Richard G. Doty, Ph.D., has the responsibility of answering questions asked of The American Numismatic Society. I am sure that people like the authors of the above papers as well as young children. Every type of coin collector in between has asked him questions on every topic covered by numismatics. In what I believe was an attempt to answer some of the questions before they were asked, a book has emerged.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NUMISMATICS, Richard G. Doty, Robert Hale, London, 1982. Earlier attempts at a book that would answer all questions about numismatic terms were at best only partially effective. I think that Dr. Doty has come a long way toward a very comprehensive book to answer the most often asked questions about numismatic terms. For example: In numismatics, what is a pile? NO, IT IS NOT WHAT I HAVE JUST WRITTEN! It is the lower of the two dies used to

produce hammered coinage. Who said my articles are not educational? This book has more than 650 illustrations and hundreds of words defined. The definitions are clear, concise and easy to read. You do not have to look up other terms just to understand the definition of the words you look up in this book. I even found a description of clad coinage. I would find it very hard to say much nice about clad coinage. He was able to describe it without the use of swear words. Certainly, it is the mark of a master author.

Even though I feel a little like a flea crawling up an elephant's leg with rape on its mind, I will rate Dr. Doty's book. Readability would have to receive a 9+. Information contained gets an 8. The only reason that is so low is that all questions are not answered and never will be in a book. Value as a reference book 9.7. I do not think that any collector or investor should be without this book. Overall 9+.

Editor's Note: If you have a book in mind that you would like Austin to review, please write to him at P. O. Box 921, Westminster, CA 92683. ☆

☆☆

O O P S !

In the last issue we exceeded our usual small error count in misspelled words. Stephen Albanese's name came out somewhat different from what was planned. Sorry about that, Steve.

We tried to confine the errors to Mr. Ryer's article this time, but he reports that some of the little devils escaped.

Next time, we will try harder or try something different, as we sincerely want to please most of our readers and irritate only the very few.

The Mint

Readers interested in being included on the United States Mint's mailing list should send their name, address and request to: U.S. Mint Customer Service, 10001 Aerospace Road, Lanham, Md. 20706.

Mint mailing list customers receive the Mint's annual catalog as well as information about ordering the Mint's numismatic products.



CLUB Dr. Thomas F. Fitzgerald REPORT

HAVE YOU HEARD?

SORRY TO REPORT - Vera M. Schymos who we associate with the Pico Rivera Coin Club wrote your club editor to report the loss of her husband, Paul, due to lung cancer. Please accept our deepest sympathies, Vera.

SPECIAL AUCTION - For the second year in a row, Michael Aron has held a very impressive auction for the Los Angeles Coin Club. Held on September 4th at their regular meeting place, the catalog listed 117 lots from large cents to gold coins. This must be one of the most extensive auctions connected with any Southern California Club.

A SALUTE TO MORRIS BRAM - Perhaps no other individual has been associated with a group of coin collectors more than had Morris Bram with the numismatic activities of Israel. The founding father and president of AINA and a guiding force in the promotion of Israel Numismatics, Mr. Bram was instrumental in the formation of Israel Clubs in the Los Angeles area. He supplied addresses of AINA members in the Southern California area. Morris continued to support the clubs in many ways. This Reporter met Morris Bram at the ANA Conventions because the ANS table hosted by the writer was always in the vicinity of the AINA table. We always enjoyed talking with each other, and I counted him among my friends. When I visited the AINA table in Atlanta, something was very much missing. He will be missed by all.

A NAME CHANGE - Members of this coin club recently changed their club name to Fountain Valley Huntington Beach Coin Club or FVHBCC instead of FVCC. They added Huntington Beach.

EXHIBIT WINNER - Phil Iverson, for the second consecutive year, won the People's Choice Award at the CES Show in Fullerton. Congratulations Phil.

BROKEN ANKLE - Sally Marx who has had more than her share of health problems recently broke her ankle. She still gets around to speak to clubs, continues as president of the Israel Club, and carries out her assignments with the NASC.

EXHIBIT AWARDS - At the Award's Banquet for the Covina Coin Club the following members received exhibit awards for their displays at the Covina

Coin Club Show: First Place - Don Collins - "Emperors of Rome." 2nd Place - Helen Desens - "Whatever Happened to Lincoln Common Cents?" Third Place - Corky Ayers - "Funny Money." The famous "Red Comb" award, a special society award within the Covina Coin Club, was claimed by Harold Katzman. Harold "helped" by re-stapling 235 books of raffle tickets that had to be un-stapled by the show committee. Congratulations, Harold!

NEW BANNER - The Long Beach Coin Club unfurled their new banner at their June 1st meeting. Bold blue letters are presented on a white satin background enclosed by a gold rope and a fringe at the bottom. It is a truly beautiful banner and will add to the activities of the Long Beach Club.

MEETING CHANGES:

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COIN CLUB

Citicorp Savings
9503 Las Tunas Dr.
Temple City
7:30 p.m. - First Wednesday

WEST VALLEY COIN CLUB

Reseda Woman's Club
7901 Lindley Ave.
Reseda
1:00 p.m. - 4th Sunday

ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB

Fullerton Savings - Community Room
1805 W. Orangethorpe Ave. (at Brookhurst)
Fullerton
8:00 p.m. - 4th Wednesday

NASC MEMBERSHIP as of August 29, 1987

17 Life Members
58 Clubs
314 Regular Members
350 Sustaining Members

739 Total

During the last quarter our membership dropped. We lost thirteen for non-payment of dues while gaining only five new members. We need everyone! Please help to gain new members. If you know of interested persons, please write me at P. O. Box 5173, Buena Park, CA 90620.

Respectfully,
R. Lebold
Corresponding Secretary

"MEMBER CLUBS' BENEFIT DRAWING"
— 45 GOLD COINS —

Drawing 4:00 p.m., January 30, 1988 — Convention Foyer



1787-1987 — 200th Anniversary of The Constitution of the United States of America

The Obverse of this medallion is designed to suggest various themes. George Washington who presided at the Constitutional Convention and who became our first President under the new Constitution is pictured as well as Ronald Reagan our 40th President. Their profiles look upon each other signifying the common bond they share in upholding the Constitution as leaders of our country. The American Flag containing 13 stars over Washington's head contrast with the 50 star Flag over Reagan's head symbolizing the growth of our country over 200 years while governed under the authority of the Constitution.

The Reverse of this medallion sets forth the Preamble of the Constitution which recites the purposes for which the Constitution was enacted. Flanking the Preamble is the American Eagle symbolizing the spirit of America.

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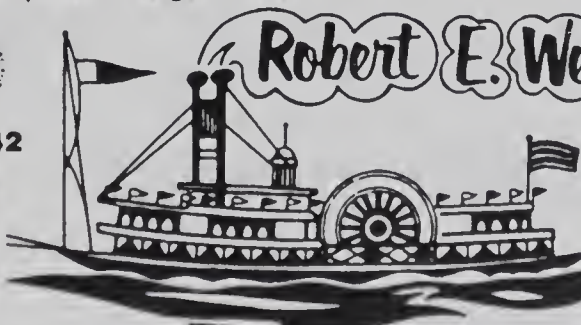
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NASC WORKSHOP

November 21-22, 1987

Dear Fellow Numismatists,

NASC will once again be sponsoring a 2-day workshop this Fall. This workshop will focus solely on U.S. SILVER COINS: AUTHENTICATION AND GRADING. (Dimes to dollars).

This year's workshop will be held on the campus of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. It will again be held at the Kellogg West Continuing Education Center, located on the hill above the campus proper. Richard Montgomery, Director of the American Numismatic Certification Service, will be our workshop leader. As in the past, Rick will bring out coins from ANACS headquarters for attendees to examine and study.

Workshop Fees include Breakfast, Lunch and breaks for both days of the workshop. Fees are as follows:

NASC Members: \$50.00

Non-Members: \$70.00

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 40 who respond.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

A letter of confirmation with maps and directions will be mailed to you about 2-3 weeks prior to the workshop. Please use the enclosed application for easy use or send a facsimile.

IF you have any questions please feel free to call me at work (714) 559-0677 ext. 480 or 351 or at home at (714) 984-9698.

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the workshop.

Sincerely,

Harold Katzman
Workshop Chairman

NASC WORKSHOP APPLICATION

Date: Nov. 21-22

Name_____ H. Phone_____ W. Phone_____

Address_____ City_____ Zip_____

NASC #_____ Attending_____ Check amount\$_____ (payable to
NASC)

Do you need lodging information?

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Gary Beedon	Kay Northam
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